



# Tempe Art in Private Development

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## Fountainhead Corporate Park - Plaza

2625 S. Plaza Drive

**John Richen**

*Elemental Ascension*, 2000

Bronze

Artist Website:

[www.JohnRichenSculpture.com](http://www.JohnRichenSculpture.com)

**Description:** Standing 20-feet tall, *Elemental Ascension* interprets the theme of sun worship, earth, water and fire, and is the focal point of the entry circular driveway. Created from hand-hammered bronze, the sculpture is dynamic from all angles and is variegated in the bronze facing so that the light plays dramatically along the surfaces. Richen goes to great lengths to achieve a high sheen on his pieces, giving each a shimmering quality that resembles the reflective characteristics of water. *Elemental Ascension* earned the Fountainhead Corporate Park Plaza team an Art in Private Development Excellence Award in 2001.

**Artist biography:** While studying architecture at Oregon State University, Richen enrolled in a class on sculpture. After discovering that he had a talent for the medium and that the “hands on” feeling of sculpting a design held a special appeal for him, Richen decided to study art. Richen has exhibited his works in major shows throughout the country, and in Amsterdam and Montreal. A partial list of those collections where Richen's works are displayed includes the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, the Raffles Hotel Corporation, Bowater Computers, the University of Chicago Medical School and collections in Saudi Arabia and Switzerland. In addition to his large scale, one-of-a-kind commissioned sculptures and fountains, Richen designs smaller sculptures for both residential and corporate audiences. Many of these latter works are created in a numbered series, not to exceed 10 of any one design.

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